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Programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman following informal consultations

Analysis of savings resulting from the improved overall cost-effectiveness achieved pursuant to the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, including the restructuring of the intergovernmental machinery and the reform of the secretariat, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997 and proposals pursuant to General Assembly decision 52/462 of 31 March 1998

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and subsequent relevant resolutions,

Recalling its resolutions 51/167 of 15 December 1996 and 52/220 of 22 December 1997 and decision 42/462 of 31 March 1998,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the analysis of savings resulting from the improved overall cost-effectiveness achieved pursuant to the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, including the restructuring of the intergovernmental machinery and the reform of the secretariat,[1]

Having considered the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

[1] A/52/898 and Corr.1.
[2] A/53/7/Add.2.

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Emphasizing the need to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in particular, in priority areas,

1. *Endorses* the proposals of the Secretary-General, on the understanding that the amount to be utilized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development should not exceed 5,526,600 United States dollars;

2. *Agrees* to the use of the amount of 1,088,000 dollars for the expenses of experts attending, in their personal capacity, expert meetings convened by the Commissions in accordance with paragraph 114 of the document entitled "A Partnership for Growth and Development",[3] on the understanding that:

(a) It would only involve a one-time expenditure within the framework of the biennium 1998–1999, made possible because of extra resources that have been allocated as a result of underspending;

(b) The financing of experts would not set a precedent regarding the financing from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development regular budget of the expenses of experts attending, in their personal capacity, expert meetings convened by the Commissions of the Trade and Development Board, in accordance with paragraph 114 of the document entitled "A Partnership for Growth and Development";[3]

(c) Special consideration would be given to the needs of developing countries, in particular, the least developed countries;

3. *Invites* the Trade and Development Board to take a final decision at its forty-fifth session (12–23 October 1998), on the question of the selection, nomination and appointment of experts to participate in the expert meetings of its Commissions, so as to enable the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development secretariat to carry out the foreseen activities without further delay;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the implementation by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development of the activities financed by the unspent balance referred to in paragraph 1 above, and on how the accomplishments had contributed to strengthening the capacity of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in particular, in priority areas;

5. *Considers* that significant savings had been achieved by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as a direct result of decisions of the ninth session of the Conference, including the restructuring of the intergovernmental machinery and the reform of the secretariat;

6. *Regrets* the lack of clear information concerning the savings achieved pursuant to the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, including the restructuring of the intergovernmental machinery of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the reform of its secretariat, and takes note, in this context, of the indication, in paragraph 8 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] that an amount of 2 million dollars, which is part of the above-mentioned savings, could be traceable to the reduction in the conference-servicing requirements of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development undertaken as a result of the ninth session, and agrees with the Advisory Committee that this information should have been reflected in the report of the Secretary-General;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, comprehensive information on the savings, including the amount of 2 million

[3] See A/51/308.

dollars referred to above, resulting from the improved overall cost-effectiveness achieved pursuant to the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, including the restructuring of the intergovernmental machinery and the reform of the secretariat, as requested in its resolutions 51/167 and 52/220;

8. *Decides* to continue consideration of this question during the main part of its fifty-fourth session.